(b) M/s. Modi Rubber Limited had submitted an application for licence *for* manufacture of 25,000 tpa of Butyl Rubber and the application has been rejected on techno-economic considerations.

Steps t» improve the efficiency of tractors

1210. SHRl YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) what steps Government have taken to desist the tractor industry from increasing prices to help small farmers;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Planning Commission working group stated that the design of trailers and implements greatly affected tractor's efficiency; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve tractor's efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MDVISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRi M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As per the present policy of the Government, existing manufacturers can produce any range of tractors within their licensed capacity. There is sufficient competition in the tractor industry to keep a check on prices. Moreover, Government have exempted tractors upto 1800CC engine capacity from the levy of excise duty.

(b) It is true that the design of trailers and implements used with tractor affects its operational efficiency.

(c) Government have allowed the import Of machinery and technology by tractor units to modernise the technology of their engines in terms of fuel efficiency, noise/vibration levels and life of components. Govt, also allows import of know-how from foreign collaborators for upgradation of technology for important aggregates like transmissions hydraulics and body styling, etc.

Delicensing facility to MRTP and FERA companies

1211. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to extend the delicensing facility to MRTP and FERA companies for setting up industries in backward and other areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRl M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The scheme of delicensing of industries was extended to MRTP/FERA companies in respect of 20 Appendix-I industries in March, 1986. In December 1987, it was further extended to 26 more Appendix-I industries for location in any centrally declared backward area and 24 non-Appendix-I industries for location in category 'A' backward districts. Further,, the delicensing scheme applicable to non MRTP/FERA companies was made available to Section 20 (b.) MRTP companies also by the notification of SO June, 1988. Liberalisation of the licensing regime is a continuous process and appropriate measures are taken from time to time to accelerate industrial growth and investment: